

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**5:36 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Stuart Peterson; Dr. Yan Sun, and Mr. Michael Fain (arrived at 5:37 p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.**

## **7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and announced a vote was taken in executive session (4-2) regarding teacher negotiations.**

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

### **III. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

#### **IV. Recognition**

##### **1. Brooke Matus-EGHS-The Congress of Future Medical Leaders 2016 Award of Excellence**

**The Committee acknowledged and congratulated Ms. Matus on her award.**

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

##### **a. Regular and executive for October 18, 2016**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes. Mr. Peterson abstained.**

#### **VI. Superintendent's Report**

**Commissioner Wagner will visit East Greenwich on November 29, 2016 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. This meeting will take place in the Cole Cafetorium. The last district flu clinic takes place tomorrow November 2nd from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at Cole. The district's first twitter chat took place last week to discuss chapters 1&2 of Grading from the Inside Out. Dr. Mercurio thanked all who participated, as well as Mr. Podraza for hosting the chat. All were reminded to start thinking about supporting AfterPromEG 2017. More information regarding volunteering/donating can be found on [afterpromeg.org](http://afterpromeg.org).**

#### **VII. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

#### **VIII. Action Items**

##### **a. Appointments**

##### **1. Paraprofessional-1:1-Hanaford-Chelsea Ralph**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.**

## **2. Appointments of Policy Committee Members**

**a. Tara Wood-Member of the public**

**b. Michael Podraza-Building Administrator**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve appointments #2a and #2b.**

## **IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates**

### **a. Health and Wellness Committee**

**Ms. Mark provided a summary of the meeting that took place on October 19th. Student leaders from Cole discussed a proposal for a new vending machine. Healthy snacks that are compliant with the Health and Wellness Policy would be stocked. Aramark partners with a vending company who could provide the snacks. If this company were used, students would have access to the machine during the day. The decision rests with the school principal. Members of the Health and Wellness Committee attended the annual R.I. Healthy Schools Breakfast in September. There is a new system in place to address concerns with electronic medical records. The school meal website was revamped this summer. An online feedback form for parents has been added. The new Health/Wellness Implementation Guide has been shared with district staff and parents (thru the PTG). Sun safety and heart healthy initiatives are being discussed and the indoor recess tool kit has been shared on the website. Farm to school initiatives are being reviewed. The district will pilot a “grab and go” cold lunchbox and might pilot a “grab and**

go” breakfast at Cole.

**b. Mental Health Subcommittee**

Ms. Mark summarized the first meeting of the year. Last year’s efforts were discussed (what worked, what didn’t work), plans for Mental Health Awareness Month (May), goals for the district, and demands/resources. The group continues to review data to identify trends.

**c. Personnel Committee**

The committee met last week. Ms. Mark highlighted plans, which include reviewing personnel policies, human resource documentation, digital employee manual, administrative processes, and best practices. All suggested policy changes would need review by the Policy Committee. The committee has also discussed standards-based evaluations for the superintendent and district administration.

**d. Finance Committee and Transportation Subcommittee**

Mr. Peterson provided an update of the recent finance committee/transportation subcommittee meeting. The transportation budget is \$74,242 above last year’s projection, which includes the payment of one additional bus. To keep the same number of buses next year (including the three buses OST is supplying), it would cost an additional \$386,000. FY2016 ended with a \$461,000 surplus. \$165,000 savings were seen from West Bay Collaborative, \$218,000 general funds, and a \$93,000 one-time payment from National Grid. There is approximately \$17 million in deferred maintenance. Mr. Peterson also discussed the forum that he recently attended

regarding pensions. Mrs. Wilcox was asked to provide a quarterly financial report at the next meeting.

**e. SEAC**

Ms. Harwood summarized the meeting that took place on October 19, 2016. The meeting was well attended and included several school committee members/candidates. SEAC discussed the need for a dyslexia subcommittee. There is discussion about hiring a dyslexia consultant. The group also discussed whether SEAC should have their own website which would be independent from EGSD. The next meeting will take place on

December 7, 2016.

**X. Discussion**

**a. Transportation Update**

The subcommittee will meet with Versatrans next week to discuss various scenarios of three tier buses, travel time scenarios, and review walking distances.

**b. Teaching and Learning: MassCue Conference Update**

The annual MassCue technology conference took place October 19, 2016 at Gillette Stadium. Representatives from all six schools attended and attended a total of thirty- four workshops. Ideas from the conference are compiled in a Google doc that will be shared with the entire staff via field memo.

**c. Joint website project update**

Ms. Schmidle presented the proposal for the joint website at the Town Council meeting on October 24th. Three vendors went thru a vetting process at the beginning of the summer. Civic Plus was

chosen as the vendor. Mr. Babson and Ms. DiMeglio will take part in the training and participate in discussions regarding website content.

Various staff members will continue to have tiered access to portions of the site. Dr. Mercurio would like the school to roll out the new website July-September 1, 2017. The town is moving forward this year to the new site. The municipality is funding the \$20,000 for this year. Funding for years two and three have not been discussed, but will need to be addressed during budget deliberations. The current vendor will be on notice prior to

June 30, 2017.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**